



Collective Worship Policy

Date of Policy/Reviews	Author(s)	Approved by Gov. Body	Date for Review
Dec 2016	Anna Goodwin	Dec 2016	Sept 2019
May 2020	Maxine Barker	May 2020	May 2023
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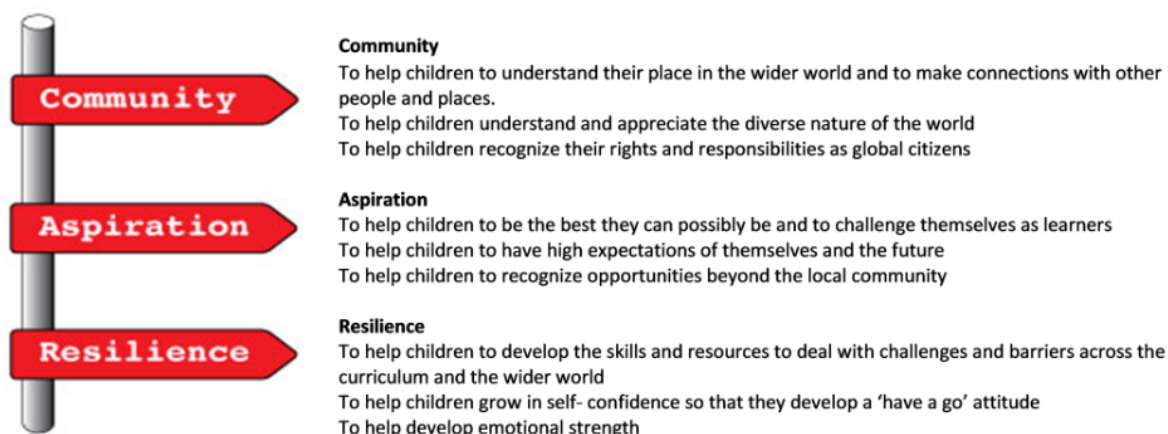
Collective Worship Policy

Our Vision

Learning Together and Living Our Christian Values

At Rosehill Methodist Primary Academy our Methodist ethos and values are at the core of everything that we do and are the foundations for teaching and learning. All children at Rosehill are valued and diversity is celebrated throughout our curriculum and our school community. We have high aspirations for all of our children and through a safe, happy and engaging learning environment we prepare our children to become successful, confident and caring lifelong learners. We understand the important role that parents and carers have in their children's education and at Rosehill we ensure that parents are well-informed and provide regular opportunities for them to share in, and celebrate their children's learning.

Our Curriculum Drivers



Our Values

We are committed to our Christian values and teaching the children at Rosehill how to apply them to their daily lives.

Our children use '*Rosehill Children Can Find Great Success*' to remember our values.



Throughout the year, we aim to learn how to live our Christian Values; through **our worship and all that we do both in and out of our** classrooms. Each week a child from every class is chosen to be a 'Values VIP' and awarded a certificate outlining how they

have demonstrated a specific value. Staff also reward children daily for following the values. Children are also rewarded with house points for following our values.

Nature and Character of School

Originally a Methodist Primary School, which opened in September 2003 as a result of the amalgamation of Hurst Methodist Junior School and Hurst Infant School, Rosehill is now an Academy, initially with the Wesley Trust and now the Epworth Trust (November 2020) The Epworth Trust is committed to the ethos statement shared by all Methodist Schools. It looks to be a family around the shared Methodist values and build on that to support all who are part of the school's wider community. We are supported with this through our links with MAST (*The Methodist Academies and Schools Trust*) who are guided by the key Methodist principles of education and can be summarised by the founder of the Methodist church - John Wesley's words:

'Do all the good that you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can, to all the people you can.'

The Legal Position

Whilst there are no legal requirements for schools to hold 'assemblies' the 1988 Education Reform Act states that all registered pupils must 'on each school day take part in an act of collective worship'. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from the daily Act of Worship. Any parent wishing to do so must put the request in writing to the Headteacher.

Roles

The responsibility for the arrangement of Collective Worship rests with the Governors in consultation with the Headteacher.

Foundation Governors have a particular responsibility because they are appointed for 'the purpose of securing, as far as is practicable that the character of the school as a voluntary school is preserved and developed, and, in particular that the school is conducted in accordance with the provisions of any trust deed relating thereto.'

Headteacher has a responsibility to ensure that all arrangements for Collective Worship are secured.

Process

This Policy was reviewed in the Summer 2023, following the reinstatement of whole school collective worship after the covid pandemic. We continue to develop a wider church experience built upon through links with the trusty, MAST, the Methodist 'Our Calling' documentation and the new "Methodist way of life". The policy is due for initial review in the summer of 2025.

Aims

- Our Worship should be consistent with Christian Beliefs and the Methodist Ethos of the School
- We should provide opportunities for everyone to engage in or to experience worship. A variety of forms of worship should be incorporated including prayer and reflection
- Our worship should be educationally acceptable i.e. such that children are able to relate to it at their level of development
- Our worship should contribute towards the spiritual and moral development of pupils and staff
- It should help to develop a community spirit, a common ethos and a shared vision.
- It should be acceptable to the whole community
- It should be used to celebrate achievements and special occasions

Organisation and content

The normal pattern of assemblies* (with worship at the heart) is as follows:

Day	Assembly	Lead
Monday:	Whole school in hall based around values & drivers	Headteacher
Tuesday:	Whole school Worship through Song	Teachers on a rota
Wednesday:	Whole school in hall based around liturgy & values	School Chaplain
Thursday:	Whole School /class based Multi-Faith & Awareness Days/ Annual Class Assemblies for parents	SLT Class teacher
Friday:	Values VIP Assembly (& Dojo awards, House Points), etc)	SLT

Epworth Worship Together was introduced in September 2023. This is an opportunity for each school and leaders in the Trust to lead collective worship for the rest of the Schools. Worship is recorded and sent out to all the schools to watch either as a whole school or in class. Each worship session also has an accompanying activity and reflection sheet. The sheets, along with the links to the video recording are shared on the newsletter. At least once a term all schools in the Trust also come together for Epworth Worship Live, which is held via Teams or Zoom.

In addition to leading Collective Worship each week the School Chaplain also takes class assemblies for the Reception and Nursery Classes throughout the year.

Each class also prepares and leads one assembly each year. Parents, Governors and other helpers are invited to these assemblies, which often focus on an aspect of the curriculum.

Prayer spaces have also been set up in each class.

Different year groups visit Hurst Methodist Church throughout the year to experience worship or mark specific festivals within a church setting, as well as special events held in school.

Special Assemblies are held at key times throughout the year e.g. Harvest, Easter, Leavers, Christmas etc. Children take an active part in these acts of Collective Worship, with different year groups leading on specific occasions. The School Chaplain is also invited to contribute. Parents, governors and friends are invited to these special occasions and encouraged to be active participants. Feedback is sought from those who attend as part of the evaluation process.

Reflecting the Methodist heritage an annual Agapé service is held for the whole school community and a Covenant Service is also included.

One of the creative programmes used by the school are the IMAGINOR resource worship booklets 'Roots and Fruits 1 & 2', which are designed to 'Support Spiritual and Moral Development in Schools'. Together these provide resource materials for helping the children to learn about the six identified focus Values actively promoted at Rosehill Methodist Academy. This is supplemented with material about key Christian seasons and festivals, like Lent and Easter; British values; celebrations from other faiths, awareness days (including charity events), traditions; topical/local issues; a sense of wonder about the natural world; and an appreciation of the talents and achievements of ourselves and others.

A list of key dates of religious, national and global significance is produced every year and used as part of the planning process.

The Worship Lead writes a yearly overview of the Worship Themes. Once this has been authorised by the SLT, the Worship Lead and the Chaplain meet every half term to plan the subsequent worship calendar.

Wherever possible music for singing and for mood setting should be chosen to complement the theme of the collective worship. A list of known hymns and songs, including those introduced by PopUK & more recently some 'Big Start' songs, are on display in the hall. *This is reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis.* Worship Leaders help to choose the music under the direction of the class teacher leading the various whole school in-hall assemblies.

Arrangements for pupils who are withdrawn from assemblies

Pupils whose parents have requested that they be withdrawn from assembly will be

expected to stay in the classroom with a nominated adult for the duration of the assembly.

Purpose of worship

Acts of Worship should provide opportunities for:

- deepening pupils' understanding of the nature of God.
- personal reflection
- a consideration of innermost thoughts, feelings and beliefs
- appreciating and valuing the Methodist story and tradition
- expressions of creativity and imagination
- appreciating and valuing the feelings of others
- appreciating and valuing the beliefs of others
- establishing positive school relationships (e.g. teacher/teacher, teacher/pupil, pupil/pupil) based on tolerance, acceptance and appreciation.
- the development of a sense of belonging
- raising awareness of the hurt caused by injustice, aggression or rejection.
- discernment of values by which to live
- experiencing and valuing the environment
- an awareness of the order and pattern within the natural world
- looking for meaning and purpose
- encouraging a sense of wonder, awe and mystery in the natural world
- exploring how humans use language to convey inner meaning e.g. symbolism, allegory, analogy, myth, metaphor.
- helping children to develop an understanding of their uniqueness

Pattern of Worship

Preparation A focal point is set up at the front of the hall, (or class if undertaking an in-class assembly), with a cloth to reflect the liturgical season of the church year (e.g. purple for Lent and Advent), a cross, a candle, a Bible opened at the focused passage and other artefacts representing the theme of the day. Music plays as everyone enters the worship space.

Welcome – a candle is 'lit' to signify the start of the worship and words are spoken which reflect the Christian belief in the Trinitarian nature of God, for instance when focussing upon the value of courage: 'We come together now in the presence of: God the Father who is always with us, God the Son who showed us how to live courageously and God the Holy Spirit who helps us to have courage but act with humility.'

Learning – this aspect of Collective Worship is symbolised by a **window** and is when new possibilities or different perspectives are 'opened up' through the use of drama, visual images, poetry or puppetry based on Bible stories or other texts.

Reflecting – symbolised by the **mirror**, the reflecting element encourages everyone to

consider how the Bible story or stimulus has resonated with or challenged them. Usually searching questions are offered as a focus for reflection. A guided meditation or a few moments of silence may be included during this part. In-class assemblies have an optional post assembly Follow-up Task to consolidate learning and allow personal reflection.

Responding – this has the symbol of the **door** and provides an opportunity to consider how God might be challenging those present in the worship to step out and play their part in making a difference in the world. Each assembly closes with a Value linked prayer, after which the candle is ‘blown out’ to signal the end of the assembly. Those leading the collective Worship may set a response task for in class. These aim to promote the applying our values to the way we live our lives.

Wows, Ows & Nows

We have started to introduce the idea of Wows, Ows & Nows to help children to express and develop their own spirituality.

WOW Moments - These are the awe and wonder moments. The times when you want to breathe in and capture the feeling, holding onto it as long as you can.

OW Moments - These are the blows life can bring. They can knock the breath out of you.

NOW Moments - These are the everyday ordinary times: being able to be present in the moment, being open and receptive to life, because God is not just for emergencies!

Worship should

a) create mood/atmosphere - this can be done through music, projected images or films, posters, use of artefacts/focal objects, lighting. A worship table with different coloured liturgical cloths, a cross, a Bible and a prayer book is set up at the front of the hall. Banners & special resources are used to decorate the hall e.g. during advent.

b) evoke a response by asking questions, identifying with others, recalling related memories sharing memories/experiences

c) encourage active participation by the children, especially those from Year 5 who complete the Roots and Fruits Junior Worship Leader training,

offer own prayers/poetry

through dance or drama

making music

reading

showing/offering their own work

planning collective worship

selecting songs and prayers

organising collective worship e.g. preparing powerpoints with words, arranging the area, setting the mood with music

- d) encourage reflection and/or provide an opportunity to pray
'Let us keep quiet and see what God is saying to us about.....'
'We will now keep silent so that those who want to offer a prayer to God can'
'I will say a prayer if you would like to join in/listen/think about.....'
'In the silence/during the music it may be helpful to think about.....'
'Whilst you look at the candle flame think about.....'
- e) use variety i.e. all of the above

Worship Leaders

Each year, four worship leaders are selected from Year 5 and are supported by Reverend Rob and the Assistant Head (Mrs Goodwin), to develop their own personal spirituality and as a leader of collective worship. As well as opportunities to design whole school prayer spaces, prepare the hall for collective worship, choose appropriate music and lead prayers, our worship leaders can also choose to plan and lead some of our collective worship and represent the school in events such as Ethos Conferences and special events. Depending on the experience and commitment to the role they show, they are awarded certificates throughout the year (Bronze, Silver & Gold Leaders of Collective Worship).

Monitoring and Review

The Collective Worship Policy will be reviewed every two years.

Each class will have an RE and Collective Worship Activities and Reflections floor book in which they will make regular entries.

The floor books will be monitored twice a year by Mrs Goodwin and the School Chaplain and the results shared with staff and governors.

Twice a year feedback will be sought through pupil and staff voice, using the following prompts:

What did you like best?

What did you think was the most important part of the assembly?

What did the story/assembly mean to you?

What are you going to change or do differently because of the assembly?

The Foundation Governors will monitor the impact of the policy as part of their monitoring of the Methodist Ethos Policy. Governors are welcome to attend all types of assemblies in order to provide feedback.

Resources

In addition to the Roots and Fruits book a range of resources are available for use in Collective Worship and in developing prayer spaces.

